

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION MFA DANCE PERFORMANCE

Programme	MFA Dance Performance
Awarding Institution	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
Location of study	Laban Building
Mode and duration	2 years full time
UK Credits	280
ECTS	140

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The MFA Dance Performance consists of a series of taught modules throughout the first year of study, followed by an Extended Project of 140 credits undertaken in the second year,

In the first year, students on the MFA Dance Performance form the membership of Trinity Laban Dance Collective (TLDC), working together on a range of different creative encounters with professional guidance from faculty and guest artists. These may range in terms of scale, duration and output, and will culminate in a portfolio of different performance opportunities throughout the year.

The MFA Dance Performance seeks to interrogate questions around the shifting identity and qualitative challenges inherent in the portfolio career of next generation performance artists. TLDC suggests collectivity as a framework for exploring this alongside themes of power, value, relevancy, ethics, sustainability and presence in performance amid others. The programme centres the lived experience of the dancer as active agent in terms of both navigating their own learning and, ultimately, in navigating and shaping the professional field.

Practice-based work is underpinned by regular engagement with embodied movement alongside a strong commitment to reflective practice, research and critical dialogue. Students will be guided in the interrogation of their own relationship to the role of the performer, whilst deepening their understanding and skills in relation to the artistic, technical and ethical complexities inherent in dance performance and performance making.

The Extended Project in the second year offers time and space for students to work independently with guidance and supervision on a research area of their choice which will demonstrate artistic ambition through an innovative investigation in dance and/or interdisciplinary performance.

Students on the MA Dance Performance are immersed within the wider Graduate School at Trinity Laban and have the benefit of shared delivery and collaborative exchange across postgraduate dance programmes.

The programme seeks to:

- Provide opportunities for developing the range of skills and meeting the challenges of working as a performing artist in today's professional arts environment.
- Support the development of advanced-level performers through access to professional dance makers, performers, collaborative environments and performance opportunities.
- Provide a means whereby students can engage critically with their studio practice.
- Provide extensive opportunities for reflection on, and critical examination of, performance practice.

- Provide a comprehensive professional-level environment in which students can refine their knowledge, skills and understanding of creative and performance processes within dance.
- Foster innovative and quality practice-based research in the field of dance performance.
- Foster a culture of collectivity and collaboration as dominant working practices
- Foster a capacity for substantial independent, innovative and quality practice-based research in the field of dance performance over an extended period of time.
- Encourage artistic ambition and experimentation through supporting innovative investigation in dance and/or interdisciplinary performance.

Particular emphasis is given to:

- developing advanced technical skills alongside embodied knowledge and understanding that enables their transfer to new and challenging creative contexts
- developing a deeper understanding of the artistic and technical complexities of the performance process
- providing intensive creative engagement with a range of visiting artists utilizing diverse creative practices
- developing a deeper understanding of the creative potential of the dance artist in collaborative processes
- developing an awareness of social, political, artistic and philosophical challenges in relationship to the development of a creative performance practice
- developing an ambitious and experimental approach to collaborative and/or interdisciplinary creative performance processes
- enabling and supporting a period of sustained and innovative enquiry and critical engagement in the realisation of a substantial work or body of work for performance.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this programme, a student will be expected to be able to demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- Apply technical knowledge and understanding to new and unfamiliar contexts
- Demonstrate a knowledge of creative processes, and of newly devised works in the act of performance
- Demonstrate a knowledge of the interconnection between theory and practice as it relates to dance performance
- Reflect on, and give an intelligent and critical account of devising and performance processes
- Reflect on, and give an intelligent and critical account of one's own development and role as a performer
- Evidence knowledge and understanding of how to synthesise, interpret and interrogate complex ideas from a variety of performance perspectives

Skills

- Undertake independent research in the field of dance performance, and disseminate this to a wider professional public
- Propose, formulate, develop, sustain and bring to completion substantial individual research over an extended period
- Demonstrate an advanced level of technical skill in a wide variety of performance contexts
- Demonstrate a high level of artistry in the creative and performance processes in a variety of

environments and in different modes of working

- Contribute intelligently and constructively to the creative process and adapt to changing demands

Values and attitudes

- Work independently, take initiative, and exercise personal responsibility for one's own performance practice
- Demonstrate a professional approach within the company context
- Exercise a professional and responsible attitude to one's own performance practice, including an understanding of the relationship between personal endeavour and collaborative enterprise
- Make individual choices and decisions in relation to performance practice
- Respond critically to issues in artistic and creative environments, especially those concerning the performer and performance practice
- Develop as a resourceful, independent, self-critical and investigative dance artist

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

Trinity Laban Graduate programmes prepare artists and practitioners to contribute to the leadership and future development of the global creative ecology in a sustainable and responsible way. Those who have participated in a graduate programme should be able to:

1. Investigate and interrogate their practices in relation to existing bodies of knowledge and associated theoretical, critical and creative contexts to understand how their practice is situated
2. Design systematic and creative research processes and practices, transferring these into a variety of practical and performance contexts
3. Adopt play and openness within research processes to compliment frameworks that enable purposeful engagement in practice
4. Demonstrate emergent original thinking, and understand how this relates to practice and the conceptualisation of work in their discipline
5. Develop significantly refined practice skills in order to produce socially and ethically aware processes and products, enabling the individual to participate as creative and artistic leaders and as global citizens

CURRICULUM

Structure

The programme commences at the beginning of September each academic year. The first year of study comprises the taught programme, and participation in Trinity Laban Dance Collective. The second year of study comprises of the Extended Project. Study is only available full time.

Taught Modules

Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Performance Making	D70021	30	Core	Yes	7
Performer in the Creative Process	D70018	40	Core	Yes	7

Dance Performance	D70019	40	Core	Yes	7
Res Lab	D70002	30	Core	No	7

Project/Dissertation Module

Extended Project	D70013	140	Core	No	7
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Key Progression Points

Students are normally required to pass all taught modules before proceeding with the dissertation/project.

An assessment board will meet at each progression point and is responsible for making progress decisions.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Total contact hours: approximately 700 hours

(Based on 20-25 hours per week for the first 9 months of the programme depending on activity, followed by independent study with supervision)

Total self-directed study hours: 2,100

Total learning and teaching hours: 2800

Learning and teaching methods

Year 1 - the majority of the learning for this programme takes place in the context of group studio practice led by faculty and guest artists. A range of performance encounters will also provide different learning opportunities. Seminars and lectures will also have an important role in the course alongside group discussion and reflective practice. Students will have regular individual tutorials throughout the year. In the final module,

Year 2 - for the Extended Project students will engage in independent study to pursue a particular research idea with mentoring support which will demonstrate their artistic ambition through an innovative investigation in dance and/or interdisciplinary performance with the support of a supervisor and a Faculty mentor.

ASSESSMENT

Overview

Assessment is through a variety of modes, including practice-based formats, presentation, reflective documentation and portfolio submissions. Usually, following a practical assessment task, there will be an opportunity to discuss the work presented with tutors, often via Q&A. This is normally led by tutors but also includes opportunities for peer involvement.

In Research Lab, the assessment task is wholly written in the form of a project proposal and does not include a practical component. Assessment modes for the Extended Project are agreed by negotiation but must include a performance/live practice output alongside a substantial research/framing documentation.

For all assessment tasks students will be assessed according to their ability to meet the learning outcomes for the module, and against any specific assessment criteria provided.

What do I have to do to pass?

You must achieve a pass mark of at least 50% in each module in order to pass the programme. The mark awarded will reflect the extent to which you have met the descriptors set out in the level 7 marking criteria.

Compensation (the award of credit for a failed module) may be awarded for no more than one module

Rules applying to compensation can be found in the Assessment Regulations for Taught Programmes. Compensation is agreed at point of award.

AWARDS

Award	HE Level	Credits
Master of Fine Arts	7	280
Postgraduate Diploma	7	140
Postgraduate Certificate	7	60

Classification	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Pass	50

Students who have registered on the MA Dance Performance will have the opportunity to apply to transfer to the MFA Dance Performance. Transfer from the MA to the MFA should be discussed with the Programme Leaders before completion of the four taught modules and normally have applied before the end of March. Transfer is subject to application and approval by the Programme Leaders.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

In addition to acceptance into TLDC (through audition), students will normally have successfully completed a UK undergraduate degree in an appropriate or related subject; or hold an overseas award of equivalent standard (e.g. USA degree - GPA 3.00 or above).

For MFA, applicants must include a project proposal, outlining the following:

- The reasons they wish to carry out an independent project over one academic year (their second year of study)
- Their suitability for extended independent research in the context of an MFA Dance Performance
- The nature of their intended research and a draft projected timeline with indicated outputs of research (which is understandably subject to change)

Applicants who do not meet the standard entry requirements are invited to complete a recognition of prior learning (RPL) process to establish their suitability for level 7 study. This might include appropriate levels of professional experience

Applicants for whom English is not their first language should demonstrate proficiency in English equivalent to IELTS 6.5 overall with a minimum of 5.5 in all 4 areas. Trinity Laban web site provides guidance on the standard expected by reference to acceptable English Language qualifications.

In addition, meeting external requirements of UK Visas and Immigration is essential.